

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
SENATE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE**

May 5, 2021

3:32 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Joshua Revak, Chair  
Senator Peter Micciche, Vice Chair  
Senator Click Bishop  
Senator Gary Stevens  
Senator Natasha von Imhof (via teleconference)  
Senator Jesse Kiehl  
Senator Scott Kawasaki

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

SENATE BILL NO. 134

"An Act relating to master guide-outfitter qualifications for licensure."

- MOVED CSSB 134 (RES) OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 133

"An Act relating to the sale or lease of state land for remote recreational sites; relating to permits for remote recreational sites; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE BILL NO. 79

"An Act relating to sport fishing, hunting, and trapping identification cards."

- MOVED CSSB 79 (RES) OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: SB 134

SHORT TITLE: MASTER GUIDE-OUTFITTER REQUIREMENTS

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) VON IMHOF

04/28/21 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
04/28/21 (S) RES  
05/05/21 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

BILL: SB 133

SHORT TITLE: REMOTE RECREATIONAL SITES; SALES; PERMITS  
SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

04/28/21 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
04/28/21 (S) RES, FIN  
04/28/21 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205  
04/28/21 (S) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
05/05/21 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

BILL: SB 79

SHORT TITLE: HUNTING/TRAPPING/FISHING: DISABLED VETS  
SPONSOR(s): KIEHL

02/12/21 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
02/12/21 (S) RES, FIN  
03/15/21 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205  
03/15/21 (S) Heard & Held  
03/15/21 (S) MINUTE(RES)  
04/28/21 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205  
04/28/21 (S) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
05/05/21 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

**WITNESS REGISTER**

JULI LUCKY, Staff  
Senator Natasha von Imhof  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Introduced SB 134 on behalf of the sponsor.

RENEE HOFFARD, Executive Administrator  
Big Game Commercial Services Board  
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions regarding SB 134.

MARTY PARSONS, Director  
Division of Mining, Land, and Water  
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Introduced SB 133 on behalf of the administration.

CHRISTOPHER ORMAN, Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division  
Natural Resources Section  
Department of Law  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions related to SB 133.

RACHEL HANKE, Legislative Liaison  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions related to SB 79.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:32:39 PM](#)

**CHAIR REVAK** called the Senate Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Kawasaki, Stevens, Kiehl, Micciche, von Imhof (via teleconference), and Chair Revak. Senator Bishop arrived soon thereafter.

#### **SB 134-MASTER GUIDE-OUTFITTER REQUIREMENTS**

[3:33:43 PM](#)

**CHAIR REVAK** announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 134 "An Act relating to master guide-outfitter qualifications for licensure."

[3:34:09 PM](#)

**SENATOR NATASHA VON IMHOF**, speaking as sponsor of SB 134, stated the purpose of the bill is to address the unintended consequence of legislation passed in 2019 regarding the conditions under which the [Big Game Commercial Services Board] would take disciplinary action against guides who violate the law pertaining to their profession. SB 134 amends the language to work as intended. She expressed hope this issue could be resolved during this hunting season. She deferred a more detailed introduction of the bill to Ms. Lucky.

[3:35:09 PM](#)

**JULI LUCKY**, Staff, Senator Natasha von Imhof, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, introduced SB 134 on behalf of the sponsor, paraphrasing the following sponsor statement:

Senate Bill 134 clarifies under what conditions the Big Game Commercial Services Board would be required to revoke a Master Guide license. The bill corrects an unintended consequence due to different interpretations of language included in the board's last reauthorization bill.

The Big Game Commercial Services Board regulates the activities of professionals that provide guide, guide-outfitter, and transportation services to big game hunters. The board had a sunset review in 2018; Senate Bill 43 was introduced in 2019 to extend the board for five years. During deliberation on the bill, there was some frustration regarding the inability of the board to quickly take action to revoke the license of a Master Guide who had been convicted of criminal offenses. The board relayed that it had the ability to revoke the license, but the process had to be suspended during the criminal case, and the required investigation and due process was lengthy.

A Master Guide license does not confer any additional hunting rights; it is an honorary designation given to Registered Guides who have demonstrated excellence over a long history in their profession. Legislators, members of the public, and clients expect those that use the title to be held to the highest standard.

The Senate Finance committee added language that was intended to require revocation of a Master Guide license upon conviction in a court of law for criminal offenses related to the profession. This language was reviewed and approved by the full Senate, all subsequent committees, and the full House. Unfortunately, during the December BGCSB meeting, the language was reviewed by staff attorneys and there was concern that the statute could be construed to apply to any violation of the statute - even late paperwork - which was clearly not the legislative intent.

The BGCSB undertook a lengthy process to determine how to capture the legislature's intent: holding Master Guides to the high standard their title conveys and requiring the revocation of licenses for egregious offenses that do not honor the profession. Senate Bill 134 is the result of that work and would require revocation of a Master Guide license after conviction

of an offense where the offender serves more than one day in jail or a \$1,500 or greater fine is imposed. It also conforms the qualifications for a Master Guide license to these standards and also requires that the guide has not had a similar license revoked within the past five years.

I would appreciate your support of this bill that clarifies the statute and ensures it works as the legislature intended.

MS. LUCKY summarized that SB 134 treats the narrow class of egregious offenses for which a master guide license must be revoked. The board proposed the language to meet legislative intent and mirror existing statute to ensure it is interpreted correctly.

3:36:03 PM

SENATOR BISHOP joined the committee meeting.

3:38:15 PM

SENATOR STEVENS asked what offenses require the board to revoke a master guide license.

MS. LUCKY replied it would apply to offenses where a person was imprisoned for more than one day or an unsuspended fine of more than \$1,500 was imposed. She said the board created those standards after a review of the cases that came before the board and the disciplinary actions it imposed. She directed attention to the minutes of the Big Game Services Board teleconference held February 20, [2020] in the bill packets. The relevant data is on page 9 of the 9-page document. It shows the board considered six master guide-outfitter violations [since the sunset audit in 2018].

3:40:01 PM

SENATOR VON IMHOF interjected the table is outlined in green.

MS. LUCKY continued to detail the examples.

3:40:18 PM

At ease to help members find the table in their bill packets.

3:40:34 PM

CHAIR REVAK reconvened the meeting and asked for a better description of the graph because the members' copies were black and white.

MS. LUCKY restated that the relevant data is on page 9 of the 9-page document. It enumerates six master guide-outfitter violations the board considered prior to the statutory change in 2019. Violations one and four met the threshold for revocation after the bill was enacted. SB 134 would require revocations for these types of offenses, she said.

[3:42:00 PM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS summarized that revocations apply only to specific hunting violations.

MS. LUCKY answered that is correct. She continued, "At this time, the language that was in Senate Bill 43 was interpreted to apply to any violations and that is what we are trying to fix. And what this bill would do is say that the fine imposed would have to be more than \$1,500 or if the person spent a day in jail. Those were the two conditions under which a Master Guide [license] would be required to be revoked."

[3:42:44 PM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked for confirmation that a master guide who received a \$1500 fine or spent time in jail for something that was unrelated to hunting would not be affected by this bill.

MS. LUCKY answered that is correct; she directed attention to the language on page 2, lines 19-20 of the bill that clearly states this is "related to hunting or the provision of big game hunting or transportation services."

[3:43:24 PM](#)

SENATOR KIEHL referenced the eligibility provision in paragraph (4) of Section 1 and asked why the lookback for hunting violations was changed from 15 years preceding the date of the application to 5 years.

MS. LUCKY answered that Section 1 relating to eligibility for a master guide license was changed to conform to Section 2 that has the "shall revoke" language.

[3:44:12 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK requested the sectional analysis.

MS. LUCKY presented the following sectional analysis for SB 134:

**Sec. 1:** Amends AS 08.54.610(b), which outlines the requirements to obtain a master guide-outfitter

license, to limit the violations that would make a person ineligible to receive a license.

Specifically, the amendment limits the look back period to five years and would only apply after conviction for an offense where the person was imprisoned for more than one day or there was a fine of more than \$1,500 imposed. It also prohibits granting a master guide-outfitter license to an individual that has had a hunting, guiding, outfitting, transporter or similar license revoked in another jurisdiction.

**Sec. 2:** Amends AS 08.54.710(k), which requires revocation of a master guide-outfitter license in certain circumstances, to limit the violations that would require revocation, similar to the language in section one, to an offense for which a person is imprisoned for more than one day or a fine of more than \$1,500 is imposed.

MS. LUCKY advised that one of the board's guiding principles was to conform AS 08.54.610(b) to existing statute. She directed attention to the document in the bill packets that shows the statute relating to eligibility for licenses has a five-year lookback. She noted the board suggested this language.

[3:46:22 PM](#)

SENATOR BISHOP asked if the statute had something similar to a "Three strikes and you're out" provision.

MS. LUCKY said she believes that it would be the five-year lookback, but she would defer to the board for confirmation.

[3:46:56 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK offered his understanding that somebody who has a qualifying violation has "a five-year timeout from being able to receive a guide license." He asked if that was correct.

MS. LUCKY answered this would apply to individuals who are otherwise eligible to hold a master guide license, but it was correct that the lookback for guide-outfitter violations would be five years.

CHAIR REVAK responded, "So if you got one of these violations, you wouldn't be able to receive a guide license for another five years."

MS. LUCKY answered, "That is correct Mr. Chairman, but I did want to point out that you would also still have to meet all of the other requirements for the master guide license. But this would disqualify you for at least a period of five years."

[3:48:03 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK repeated, "At least." He noted Renee Hoffard was available for questions.

SENATOR BISHOP asked if there was a limit to the number of times a guide could have their license revoked and reinstated after five years.

[3:48:40 PM](#)

RENEE HOFFARD, Executive Administrator, Big Game Commercial Services Board, Juneau, Alaska, referenced subsection (l) that is not being amended and read the following:

**Sec. 08.54.710. Discipline of guides and transporters.**

(l) The board may issue a registered guide-outfitter license to a person whose master guide-outfitter license is revoked under (k) of this section.

She highlighted the provision that says to qualify for a master guide license, the applicant must be a registered guide for 15 of the 20 years immediately preceding the date of the application. If the offense is egregious enough, the board, in consultation with the Department of Law, may choose to not issue the registered guide license.

CHAIR REVAK asked Ms. Lucky if she had anything to add.

[3:50:44 PM](#)

MS. LUCKY noted the concern in the testimony the committee received about "may" versus "shall." She said everybody agreed the language needed to be amended but the opinions varied on how to do that. Some people want the board to have discretion to revoke a master guide license for certain violations, but the board suggested narrowing the scope to just the most egregious offenses and making the revocation mandatory.

[3:51:57 PM](#)



MS. LUCKY said the second issue relates to the effective date. The hunting season is underway and there is some concern that without an immediate effective date a small violation could result in a guide having their license revoked for five years. Self-reporting of small violations is common and that is jeopardized by the current interpretation that all violations result in license revocation.

MS. LUCKY said the sponsor has an amendment for an effective date that is retroactive to the date Senate Bill 43 was enacted. This makes the law consistent, and it clarifies the legislature's understanding and intention when it passed Senate Bill 43 in September 2019.

[3:54:06 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK opened public testimony on SB 134; finding none, he closed public testimony.

CHAIR REVAK asked if there were amendments.

[3:54:32 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE moved Conceptual Amendment 1 to SB 134.

OFFERED IN THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

BY SENATOR VON IMHOF

TO: SB 134 (32-LS06096\I)

This is a conceptual amendment. Legislative Legal is directed to make any changes or deletions to the suggest language, including technical, conforming, or bill title changes, in order accomplish the intent.

INTENT OF AMENDMENT: Add an effective date to SB 134 to match the effective date of the enactment of AS 08.54.710(k) by Senate Bill 43 in 2019 (CHAPTER 26 SLA 19).

[3:54:43 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK found no objection and announced Conceptual Amendment 1 to SB 134 passed.

[3:54:51 PM](#)

At ease.

[3:56:37 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK reconvened the meeting and asked the will of the committee.

[3:56:49 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE moved to report SB 134, work order 32-LS0696\I, as conceptually amended, from committee, with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s). He directed Legislative Legal to make changes or deletions to the conceptual amendment to accomplish the intent.

[3:57:20 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK found no objection and CSSB 134(RES) was reported from the Senate Resources Standing Committee.

[3:57:46 PM](#)

At ease

### **SB 133-REMOTE RECREATIONAL SITES; SALES; PERMITS**

[3:59:22 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 133 "An Act relating to the sale or lease of state land for remote recreational sites; relating to permits for remote recreational sites; and providing for an effective date."

[3:59:47 PM](#)

MARTY PARSONS, Director, Division of Mining, Land, and Water, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Anchorage, Alaska, stated SB 133 is another step to fulfill the intent of art. VIII, sec. 1 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska to encourage settlement of Alaska lands consistent with the public interest. He said just three percent of the land in Alaska is in private ownership and this administration intends to expand that.

MR. PARSONS displayed the pie chart on slide 3 that shows the breakdown of land ownership in Alaska. The federal government is the largest landowner with 59 percent; state ownership is 26 percent but will increase to about 30 percent once the state receives all its entitlement; the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporations hold about 12 percent; and about 3 percent is in private ownership, which includes municipalities.

MR. PARSONS reviewed the different ways SB 133 provides for Alaskans to procure land in Alaska. The slide read as follows:

- Lands can be identified and offered through the State Land Sales program
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will maintain a list of lands available for remote recreational sites
- The State will identify areas where land is properly classified for settlement and may be staked for remote recreational sites
- Individuals can nominate open state land not included in the annual state offering for remote recreational sites
- Multiple ways to procure a site:
  - Purchase
  - Lease
  - Permit

[4:03:24 PM](#)

MR. PARSONS described the current Remote Recreational Cabin Site Program under AS 38.05.600. The state identifies up to 20 acres of state land per parcel for disposal under a lottery. Successful individuals are able to stake their own parcel. The difference between the current RRCS program and the former programs is that the current program is open to residents only, it has no "prove-up" requirements, and the resident has the opportunity to own the land. He said DNR goes through a public interest finding and public process before offering the land as part of the staking program.

[4:05:15 PM](#)

SENATOR VON IMHOF read the last bullet point on slide 5, "Since 2001 DNR has offered staking in 81 staking areas over 14 offerings." She asked for a description of a staking area and the definition of an "offering."

MR. PARSONS directed attention to the examples on slide 7 of staking areas from previous RRCS offerings. He elaborated that a staking area is land DNR has identified as appropriate for staking within a larger offering area. For example, DNR may identify 15 authorizations within a 20,000 acre offering area.

[4:07:19 PM](#)

SENATOR VON IMHOF asked how many individual parcels and total acres the division has sold since 2001.

MR. PARSONS answered he would follow up with information.

SENATOR VON IMHOF asked for an estimate and whether each staking area has about 50 parcels.

4:08:07 PM

MR. PARSONS answered it depends on the individual offering. Some offerings could be 20,000 acres with 50 parcels and others could be 7,500 acres with just 4 or 5 parcels. He said he did not have the numbers in his head, but he would get the information to the committee quickly.

4:08:48 PM

SENATOR STEVENS asked if the difference between prove-up and no prove-up is that prove-up means a person builds a cabin and no prove-up means they do not build a cabin.

MR. PARSONS answered that is correct; the old staking programs required certain improvements. Under the Remote Recreational Cabin Staking program, the individual who staked the land was able to move into a three-year lease so they could get the land surveyed and appraised. They were allowed to make improvements, but it was not required. After that the individual could move into a land purchase contract.

4:10:01 PM

SENATOR STEVENS commented he thought the idea was for these parcels to be improved. He asked if somebody could lease a parcel for three years, do nothing, and end up owning the land.

MR. PARSONS answered that is technically correct. Most of the parcels are fairly remote and it is up to the individual who staked the land to use it for recreational purposes as they see fit.

SENATOR MICCICHE asked if the bill repeals the current program and proposes a new one. He shared that he participated in the Day Harbor staking years ago and he was not sure the process was as sound as it could have been.

MR. PARSONS answered yes; SB 133 repeals the program under AS 38.05.600 and replaces it with a new one.

4:12:00 PM

SENATOR KAWASAKI asked if a tent platform would be an acceptable prove-up.

MR. PARSONS answered the current Remote Recreational Cabin Staking program does not have a prove-up requirement. An

individual stakes the land then has it surveyed and appraised. Improvements are at the individual's discretion, whether it is a tent platform, camping site, or a more permanent structure.

SENATOR KAWASAKI asked if a parcel under the staking program could be used for a commercial purpose.

MR. PARSONS answered no.

[4:13:21 PM](#)

SENATOR BISHOP asked if commercial guides and outfitters are excluded.

MR. PARSONS answered the Remote Cabin Staking program may not be used for a commercial purpose; that was part of the impetus for the commercial provision in what is currently SB 97.

[4:14:05 PM](#)

MR. PARSONS directed attention to slides 7 and 8 and explained they are intended to illustrate the remote staking program has had offerings and authorizations statewide. The offerings range from Nome to Lake Louise, to Southcentral to Southeast.

[4:14:56 PM](#)

MR. PARSONS paraphrased slides 9-10 that provide an overview of what is in SB 133. The slides read as follows:

- Repeals existing RRCS program
- Provides for Commissioner to identify areas where land is properly classified for settlement and offer those lands for staking of remote recreational sites
- Identifies who is eligible to participate in the program
- Establishes what parcel size may be staked by an eligible participant - 10 acres
- Provides for Alaskans to nominate lands for inclusion
- Requires information necessary for identifying staked parcel
- Process for handling conflicting staked parcels
- Directs the Commissioner to establish regulations to implement the program
- Establishes process for staking and purchasing a piece of state land for a remote recreational site

- Sale price is fair market value
- Applicant must survey and appraise the site
- Also establishes a process for staking and leasing of state land for remote recreational sites
- Establishes process for leasing a remote recreational site
  - Initial 10-year leasing period
  - Two additional 10-year lease renewal periods
  - Restricts assignment of a lease
  - Termination of lease for non-compliance
  - Establishes timeframe for surveying and appraising
  - Requirement for marking of parcel boundaries

4:18:27 PM

SENATOR BISHOP asked if DNR does the appraisal and bills for it.

MR. PARSONS answered the intention is for the individual to be responsible for both the survey and appraisal and the rules for that can be handled through the regulatory process.

SENATOR BISHOP said he assumes the surveyor would need to be licensed in this state.

MR. PARSONS answered that is correct; an official survey must be done by a licensed surveyor.

SENATOR MICCICHE referenced earlier conversations that in part led to the bill. He said the problem is that some families have leased land for generations. He asked if those parcels that are under lease could be included in this program with the current leaseholders being given the right of first refusal.

4:20:44 PM

MR. PARSONS said the reference is to the Personal Use Cabin Program. DNR believes that except in areas where the cabins would be in a legislatively designated area, there will be an opportunity for the leaseholders to participate in this program and convert their lease to a purchase.

SENATOR MICCICHE asked if that could be interpreted to mean that there is a path forward.

MR. PARSONS answered the division's intent is to allow the individuals who participated in the PUCP program to gain title to those lands.

[4:21:46 PM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked him to talk about the assignment of a lease and the restrictions that will be placed on the assignment.

MR. PARSONS answered the language on paragraph (1) on page 10, lines 13-14, states the lease may not be assigned, conveyed, or otherwise transferred, except through an estate or intestate succession.

[4:22:40 PM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS summarized that a lease could pass to family through a will.

MR. PARSONS answered that is correct and Mr. Orman with the Department of Law was available to correct him if he misspoke.

CHAIR REVAK asked Mr. Orman for his opinion.

[4:23:08 PM](#)

CHRISTOPHER ORMAN, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, Natural Resources Section, Department of Law, Juneau, Alaska, agreed with Mr. Parsons. The lease may not be assigned or conveyed but it can pass through estate or intestate succession. He also noted that language in paragraph (3) on page 10, lines 18-19 talks about the restrictions DNR has the discretion to impose on the lease.

[4:24:07 PM](#)

SENATOR KIEHL asked if the biggest difference is there is not a best interest finding and instead, people can stake all the vacant unreserved land in a given parcel.

MR. PARSONS answered yes; there is no best interest finding. He said it is DNR's understanding that the areas available for people to stake would be a subset of the Vacant, Unappropriated, Unreserved (VUU) land, and the commissioner could include all or a portion of that land.

SENATOR KIEHL asked how to prevent the staking program acreage from being on top of a coal seam or a site with commercial mineral potential.

MR. PARSONS answered certain non-conveyable land classifications would not be available to participate in the program.

SENATOR KIEHL commented, "We keep hearing we've got better maps of the moon than of Alaska; I wonder if we're as confident as all that."

4:26:06 PM

SENATOR VON IMHOF questioned the need to hire five full-time employees as part of establishing a process for leasing a remote recreational site. She mentioned hiring a surveyor when DNR already has 10 surveyors on staff and referenced an earlier statement about outsourcing surveying and appraisal work. She asked if these hires were necessary, particularly given that this administration is trying to reduce the footprint of government.

4:26:58 PM

MR. PARSONS answered the division believes this program will be very popular. If their analysis is correct, the program will require a surveyor who primarily will write survey instructions, review plats, and do the administrative work to identify the parcels and ownership and ensure all the criteria for the platting process are met. The anticipated workload will require additional appraisers, land surveyors, and staff to administer the program.

SENATOR VON IMHOF highlighted that the Department of Natural Resources has 210 employees, including 10 fulltime level I land surveyors, 12 fulltime level I natural resource managers, 52 fulltime level II natural resource specialists, and 4 fulltime level II appraisers. She said she did not know these employees' current workload or if the land surveying needs in DNR were "huckity buck," but she wanted it on the record that she was cautious and wary of the \$750,000 fiscal note that calls for five new fulltime employees.

4:29:41 PM

SENATOR BISHOP asked if individuals would have the option to purchase these parcels under the same terms and conditions as the current process; the state carries the note and individuals make payments to the state.

MR. PARSONS answered yes.



[4:30:43 PM](#)

SENATOR KAWASAKI referenced the state map of VUU lands on slide 12 and asked if DNR has determined that each of the blue colored parcels are not critical habitat or have something that would preclude a sale.

MR. PARSONS answered that map is the division's current best estimate of what VUU lands would be available for this program. He added the caveat, "I cannot tell you 100 percent every acre of that is unencumbered or is available." He said he could say the land is not classified for habitat or minerals and it has not been approved for municipal land entitlements. He added that before the land is offered to the public a more rigorous analysis would be necessary.

[4:32:35 PM](#)

SENATOR KAWASAKI referenced Section 2 and asked what additional studies would be required for the director to make a written finding that the best interest of the state will be served by the process going forward. He cited a bill he worked on with the director to make the current process easier.

MR. PARSONS answered the "035" best interest finding is not necessary, but the division would still go through a rigorous process to ensure the relevant lands are not encumbered by pipelines, easements, leases, or other authorizations. This will be similar to the current process initially, but less work will be required in the end to convey the land and enter the authorization, he said.

[4:35:44 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE asked if he agreed that this iteration of the remote cabin site program had a different system for basically the same thing.

MR. PARSONS agreed that was fairly accurate; instead of discrete parcels, this program looks statewide at what might be included in the program.

SENATOR MICCICHE referred to the fiscal note analysis and asked if \$750,000 to \$2.5 million in sales is expected over time.

MR. PARSONS answered that is the revenue estimate and \$569,900 is the estimated expense for a net of less than \$200,000.

[4:38:24 PM](#)

SENATOR BISHOP referenced the map on slide 10 and asked if the parcels in blue are available for staking and lease.

MR. PARSONS answered it should be considered a preliminary analysis of locations where land may be available.

SENATOR BISHOP noted the bill says an individual could nominate outside those quadrants.

MR. PARSONS confirmed that was correct.

[4:39:18 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK requested the sectional analysis for SB 133.

MR. PARSONS deferred to Mr. Orman for the sectional analysis.

[4:39:42 PM](#)

MR. ORMAN stated he was primarily available to answer legal questions about the bill, but he could provide a summary.

CHAIR REVAK stated he would wait to hear the sectional analysis during a subsequent hearing.

[4:40:27 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE asked Mr. Parsons to provide better detail on the lands available under the bill.

CHAIR REVAK requested he send the more detailed maps to the committee.

SENATOR KIEHL noted the chair's staff had posted a more detailed map on BASIS.

MR. PARSONS agreed a more detailed map was posted on BASIS. He reiterated that this was just a preliminary look at the land that potentially would be available.

CHAIR REVAK advised the committee would look at the detailed map and follow up if there were questions on that or the sectional analysis.

[4:42:48 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK opened public testimony on SB 133; finding none, he closed public testimony.

[4:43:12 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK held SB 133 in committee.

**SB 79-HUNTING/TRAPPING/FISHING: DISABLED VETS**

4:43:26 PM

CHAIR REVAK announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 79 "An Act relating to sport fishing, hunting, and trapping identification cards."

He stated the bill was first heard on 3/15/2021 when public testimony was heard and closed. He noted the proposed committee substitute (CS).

4:43:41 PM

SENATOR JESSE KIEHL, speaking as sponsor, reminded members that the original bill qualifies veterans with a service-related disability to receive the permanent ID card that senior citizens receive for hunting, fishing, and trapping. Without the bill, these veterans only qualify for an annual free hunting and fishing license. The proposed CS reflects requests and suggestions from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). First it addresses the technical issue that the disabled veteran license is annual, but the department's practice has been to issue a permanent card for hunting and fishing. The CS adds it to the statute so that the law matches current practice. The more substantive change is to add trapping to the free annual hunting and fishing license for active duty National Guard members and members of the reserves who are residents

SENATOR KIEHL said he wanted to correct a statement he made during the initial presentation about the trapping licenses sold in Alaska each year. He should have said just under 900 exclusively trapping licenses are sold in Alaska each year. That is the possible revenue loss under SB 79. The number of combined hunting/fishing/trapping licenses sold in the state each year is vastly larger.

SENATOR STEVENS commented on the title.

SENATOR KIEHL responded to the comment.

4:47:07 PM

SENATOR MICCICHE moved to adopt the committee substitute (CS) for SB 79, work order 32-LS0003\W, as the working document.

4:47:29 PM

CHAIR REVAK found no objection and version W was adopted.

SENATOR MICCICHE asked the sponsor if the fiscal note was still zero.

SENATOR KIEHL answered yes; the department believes the original fiscal note for the bill is still appropriate.

[4:48:14 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE said he supported the bill, but he wanted to make sure the committee is looking at real numbers.

CHAIR REVAK asked Ms. Hanke to comment.

[4:48:47 PM](#)

RACHEL HANKE, Legislative Liaison, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, Alaska, stated the number of exclusive trapping licenses will remain the same. The CS adds trapping for active duty reserve members and that number is not expected to be large so the fiscal impact will be minimal.

[4:49:11 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK found no further questions or comments and asked the will of the committee.

[4:49:56 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE moved to report the CS for SB 79, work order 32-LS0003\W, from committee with individual recommendations and attached zero fiscal note(s).

[4:50:11 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK found no objection and CSSB 79(RES) was reported from the Senate Resources Standing Committee.

[4:50:51 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Revak adjourned the Senate Resources Standing Committee meeting at 4:50 p.m.